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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. A-5997

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY DETERMINING SERVICE GROUPS IN A SUBSCRIBER NETWORK

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Abstract of the Disclosure

A decoder checks a table within its received input signal and tunes to at least one of the listed frequencies to determine its associated service group within a subscriber television system. The associated service group associates the decoder with the modulators, transport streams, and other components providing services and programming to that particular decoder. The decoder transmits its associated service group to the subscriber television system headend. The subscriber television system then knows the services and programming available on that particular decoder. The decoder can periodically verify its associated service group and, if the service group is changed, notify the headend. By establishing decoders for auditing the system, the definition of the service groups can be established or updated when components or configurations are introduced or changed.

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